

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IOE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06

FEAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OIC-02 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /126 W
----- 071201

O 011437Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8035

INFO USERDA HQ GERMANTOWN IMMEDIATE

USERDA HQ WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 7309

DEPT PASS IO/SCT

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA AORG SF

SUBJ: FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA IN IAEA

REF: A. STATE 202260 B. LONDON 12902

C. PARIS 24785

SUMMARY: IT IS MISSION'S VIEW THAT IN ABSENCE OF
HIGHLY DRAMATIC CHANGE IN INTERNATIONAL IMAGE OF
SAG, THERE IS LITTLE HOPE OF AVOIDING A SUCCESSFUL
CHALLENGE TO SAG CREDENTIALS AT IAEA GENERAL
CONFERENCE AND AT POST CONFERENCE BOARD
OF GOVERNORS MEETING. EXPULSION FROM AGENCY
MEMBERSHIP, EVEN BY ILLEGAL PROCEDURES, CANNOT
BE RULED OUT. FRANCE/IAEA/SAG SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT
MAY SQUEAK THROUGH PRE-CONFERENCE BOARD, BUT QUESTION
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OF ITS BEING BROUGHT INTO FORCE REMAINS IN DOUBT.

END SUMMARY.

1. IN COURSE OF EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH LOCAL MISSIONS, MISSION HAS THUS FAR RECEIVED FAINT ENCOURAGEMENT IN RESPONSE TO OUR ARGUMENTS AGAINST VARIOUS FORMS OF HOSTILE ACTION AGAINST SAG. USSR MISOFF INFORMED US HE EXPECTS TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS REFLECTING PREVIOUS SOVIET POSITION ON SOUTH AFRICA AT NEW YORK AND ELSEWHERE. EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, INDIAN AND PHILIPPINE AMBASSADORS, WHO ARE LEADING LDC SPOKESMEN HERE, FULLY EXPECT TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT CHALLENGE TO SAG CREDENTIALS OR MEMBERSHIP, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF REFERENCE TO SOUTH AFRICA IN FINAL DECLARATION OF NAC AT COLOMBO.

2. POSSIBILITY OF EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION CANNOT BE RULED OUT EVEN THOUGH SUCH ACTION BY GENERAL CONFERENCE OR BY BOARD WOULD BE ILLEGAL. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT EXPULSION OF REPUBLIC OF CHINA BY BOARD WAS ALSO ILLEGAL BUT EFFECTIVE NONETHELESS.

3. ITALIAN AND JAPANESE REPS, WHILE PERSONALLY SYMPATHETIC TO OUR ARGUMENTS, ARE AS YET WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. WE HAVE MADE PARTICULARLY STRONG EFFORTS TO ENLIST SUPPORT OF FRENCH, AS INSTRUCTED REF (A), BUT FRENCH RESREP IS ALSO WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AS YET. CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHERS TO DATE INDICATE THAT DELS EXPECT INSTRUCTIONS IN ACCORDANCE THEIR REPS' PREVIOUS ACTIONS IN UNGA. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION BELIEVES CREDENTIALS FOR SAG DEL AT GENERAL CONFERENCE WILL BE REJECTED, IF AFRICAN BLOC DECIDES TO CHALLENGE.

4. AS MISSION HAS NOTED EARLIER, THIS WOULD HAVE LITTLE PRACTICAL EFFECT ON SAG PARTICIPATION AT GENERAL CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, AS A MINIMUM, REJECTION OF CREDENTIALS AT GENERAL CONFERENCE WOULD RESULT IN MOVE FOR SIMILAR REJECTION OF CREDENTIALS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SAG GOVERNOR BY NEW BOARD WHICH CONVENES FOLLOWING GENERAL CONFERENCE. SHOULD THIS OCCUR, MISSION BELIEVES WE CAN COUNT ON ONLY SIXTEEN OTHER GOVERNORS TO SUPPORT ACCEPTANCE OF SAG CREDENTIALS.

5. WITH REGARD TO FRANCE/IAEA/SAG SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY PRE-CONFERENCE BOARD, OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT WHILE THERE IS SUFFICIENT

OPPOSITION TO PRECLUDE BOARD AGREEMENT BY CONSENSUS, IT MAY BE APPROVED NARROWLY IN A VOTE. IF APPROVAL IS VOTED BY ALL RPT ALL WE BOARD MEMBERS PLUS JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, CANADA, US AND MOST LA MEMBERS, VOTE WILL BE 50-50. THUS, BOARD APPROVAL IS CONTINGENT UPON PICKING UP ONE OR MORE SWING VOTES; E.G. VENEZUELA OR THAILAND. MISSION IS CONTACTING THOSE MISSIONS TOWARDS THIS END.

6. EVEN IF SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT IS APPROVED, HOWEVER, SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE LATER TO CREDENTIALS OF SAG GOVERNOR COULD PROMPT SOME MEMBER STATE TO QUESTION PROPRIETY OF DG ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT SIGNED BY GOVERNMENT WHOSE CREDENTIALS HAD BEEN REJECTED. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY, POINTED OUT EARLIER, THAT IF REBUFFED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OR THE BOARD, SAG WILL REFRAIN FROM BRINGING THE AGREEMENT INTO FORCE.

7. IN SUM, THE OUTLOOK FOR SOUTH AFRICA AS WE SEE IT IS BLEAK. HOWEVER, MISSION WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO ENLIST SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT AND CONTINUED FULL PARTICIPATION ON BOARD AND IN AGENCY.STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976IAEAV07309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760332-0089
From: IAEA VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609103/aaaadjzd.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.STATE 202260 B. LONDON 12902, C.PARIS 24785, 76 STATE 202260, 76 PARIS 24785
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA IN IAEA
TAGS: AORG, SF, IAEA
To: SECSTATE WASHDC USERDA HQ GERMANY USERDA HQ WASHDC PRETORIA CAPE TOWN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006